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**Report Highlights:**

The report contains summaries of relevant August 2012 decisions from the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU) meetings that impact CU food and agriculture policy. In particular, EEC Collegium Decision No. 142 of August 23, 2012, establishes a tariff-rate quota on certain whey items imported into Russia in the amount of 5,000 metric tons in 2012.



## **General Information**

The report contains summaries of relevant August 2012 decisions from the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU) meetings that impact CU food and agriculture policy. In particular, EEC Collegium Decision No. 142 of August 23, 2012, establishes a tariff-rate quota on certain whey items imported into Russia in the amount of 5,000 metric tons in 2012.

The documents below are hyperlinked via Google Translate, for readers seeking further details. Select “refresh” on your browser if the page does not translate to the end. Please note that the CU is often delayed when publishing attachments to decisions. If there is an attachment in a decision that is not yet linked, please check back again.

### **9<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL August 24, 2012**

*Publication Date: August 24, 2012*

**[EEC Council Decision No. 73.](#)** *On Bringing of the Legal Framework of the Customs Union and the Single Economic Space in Compliance with the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of the Foreign Economic Activity of the Customs Union and the Common Customs Tariff of the Customs Union, Approved by Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission’s Council No. 54 of July 16, 2012 - original in [Russian](#)*

**Summary:** The document amends or cancels some of the CU decisions in accordance with the new WTO-adjusted CU Customs Tariff. In particular, CU Commission Decisions No. 299, No. 317, and No. 318 of 2010 are amended. Additionally, there are instructions for the EEC Collegium to draft amendments to the list of sensitive goods which require a consensus for changing their import duty rates. Until such amendments take effect, decisions regarding changes of import duty rates on certain goods (see Annex 3 to the Decision), including from such agricultural HS headings as 02, 04, 08, 15, and 20, shall be taken by the EEC Council, and not by the lower EEC body – the Collegium, which is normally authorized to take decisions on import tariff changes.

### **21<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM August 16, 2012**

*Publication Date: August 17, 2012*

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 125.](#)** *On Bringing of the Legal Framework of the Customs Union and the Single Economic Space in Compliance with the Unified Commodity Nomenclature of the Foreign Economic Activity of the Customs Union and the Common Customs Tariff of the Customs Union, Approved by Decision of the Eurasian Economic Commission’s Council No. 54 of July 16, 2012 - original in [Russian](#)*

**Summary:** Similar (but not identical) to the EEC Council Decision No. 73 above, this document amends and cancels some of the CU decisions to bring them into compliance with the new



WTO-adjusted CU Customs Tariff. In particular, CU Commission Decisions No. 299 of 2010, No. 620 of 2011, and No. 810 of 2011 are amended.

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 134.** *On Legal Acts in the Area of Non-Tariff Regulation* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The decision approves a revised “Unified List” of goods subject to import or export bans, or restrictions in CU trade with third countries, which no longer contains alcohol. Thus, it is the last step in the implementation of Russia’s WTO commitment to cancel licensing of alcohol.

**22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**August 23, 2012**

***Publication Date: August 23, 2012***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 137.** *On Approval of the Composition of the Consultative Committee on Customs Regulation* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary** The decision approves the membership of the EEC Consultative Committee on Customs Regulation. Russia will have 24 representatives in the Committee from such agencies as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the Federal Customs Service.

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 142.** *On establishment of a tariff-rate quota and the volume of the tariff-rate quota on imports of certain types of whey to the unified customs territory of the Customs Union* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision establishes a tariff-rate quota on certain whey items (CU HS Codes 0404 10 120 1 and 0404 10 160 1) imported to Russia in the amount of 5,000 metric tons in 2012. According to Russia’s WTO commitments, the in-quota tariff should be 10%, while the out-of-quota tariff should be 15 percent.

***Publication Date: August 24, 2012***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 146.** *On the Start of Negotiations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on a Free Trade Agreement* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision approves a draft decision of the EEC Council on the issue and instructs the EEC Trade Minister, Andrey Slepnev, to submit draft directives for negotiations in September 2012.

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 147.** *On Creation of the Unified System of Registration and Identification of Participants of the Foreign Economic Activities on the Territory of the Member-States of the Customs Union and the Single Economic Space* - original in [Russian](#)



**Summary:** The Decision instructs the EEC Minister of Customs Cooperation, Mr. Goshin, to draft proposals on the feasibility of the above-referenced system.

**Publication Date:** August 31, 2012

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 152.](#)** *On the Memorandum of Cooperation on Trade Issues between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Government of Ukraine* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision authorizes Chairman of the EEC Collegium, Mr. Khristenko, to negotiate and sign the attached draft Memorandum with the Government of Ukraine. According to the Memorandum, it is not an international treaty and does not entail any legal obligations for the Parties. It calls for cooperation between the EEC and the Government of Ukraine within the framework of a Coordination Group, “Dialogue on Trade Issues,” to be lead by the Trade Ministers of the Parties.

**23<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM**  
**August 30, 2012**

**Publication Date:** August 30, 2012

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 150.](#)** *On Amending the Regulation on the Unified Veterinary Control at the Customs Border of the Customs Union and the Customs Territory of the Customs Union* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision approves a draft EEC Council Decision on the above-referenced amendments, which will implement a provision on pre-notification for meat imported by sea.

**Publication Date:** September 4, 2012

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 155.](#)** *On the Draft Memorandum of Cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision approves a draft of the above Memorandum and authorizes Chairman of the EEC Collegium, Mr. Khristenko, to sign it. The Memorandum is a declaration by the Parties of their intent to cooperate through information exchange on the issues within their competencies, including trade policy and trade facilitation, technical regulation, customs policy, and agricultural cooperation.

**[EEC Collegium Decision No. 156.](#)** *On the Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Permanent Committee of the Union State* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision approves a draft of the above-referenced memorandum and authorizes Chairman of the EEC Collegium, Mr. Khristenko, to sign the memorandum. According to the memorandum, it is not an international treaty and does not entail any legal obligations for the Parties. The memorandum is a declaration by the Parties of their intent to cooperate through



information exchange on the issues within their competencies, including trade policy and trade facilitation, technical regulation, customs policy, and agricultural cooperation.

***Publication Date: September 10, 2012***

**EEC Collegium Decision No. 157.** *On the Draft Memorandum on Cooperation on the Issues of Technical Regulation between the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers* - original in [Russian](#)

**Summary:** The Decision approves a draft of the above-referenced memorandum and authorizes Chairman of the EEC Collegium, Mr. Khristenko, to sign it. According to the memorandum, it is not an international treaty and does not entail any legal obligations for the Parties. The memorandum is a declaration by the Parties of their intent to cooperate through information exchange on the issues of technical regulation in the framework of Coordination Group on Technical Regulation to be led by the Ministers responsible for technical regulation.